

War, POW, to continue their case against the Hussein regime.

In 2002, 17 American ex-prisoners of war were brutally tortured in Iraq during the first Persian Gulf War sued Saddam Hussein's regime. The veterans eventually won a judgement against Hussein. But shortly after the invasion of Iraq, the Bush administration stepped in and had the judgement overturned.

According to a Dec. 28 report in Congressional Quarterly, President Bush issued his veto after lawyers for the Iraqi Government threatened to withdraw \$25 billion worth of assets from U.S. banks if the provisions was allowed to become law. The American POWs were granted damages by a U.S. district court in July 2003. The court awarded \$959 million in compensatory and punitive damages to the 17 POWs—some of whom remain on active duty today and are serving in Iraq.

But earlier in 2003, after signing a bill that allowed Americans to collect court-ordered damages from the frozen assets of terrorist states—a list that included Iraq at that time—President Bush had confiscated what was then \$1.7 billion in Iraqi assets held in private banks. He allowed the payment of two judgments including one for so-called "human shield" hostages held in Iraq in 1990, but none for the Americans taken prisoner in the 1991 Gulf War.

The President chose to respect corporate interests over human interests and corporate rights over human rights. This is something that the American people have seen from this administration in the past in unrelated matters.

This bill, H.R. 5167, the "the Justice for Victims of Torture and Terrorism Act" restores a provision in the previously vetoed Defense bill that would allow American veterans and victims of torture to pursue legal claims against their torturers.

Simply put, American veterans tortured as prisoners of war do not deserve to be left behind by a presidential policy that keeps them from seeking justice. We need to hold countries accountable for torturing American troops so it never happens again. We need to get our priorities straight. Protecting American veterans and POWs should come before protecting a country's assets.

We must act today to correct this problem. I urge my colleagues to act with me, and support this bill. A strong bipartisan message of support needs to be displayed by this body to right the wrongs and send a message to the President that American soldiers deserve better. The message is clear: American soldiers deserve the right to bring torturers to justice. I invite my colleagues to stand with me today and support this important legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5167, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to terminate the authority of the President to waive, with regard to Iraq, certain provisions under the National Defense Authorization Act for

Fiscal Year 2008 unless certain conditions are met."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2008.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 11, 2008, at 4:25 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3406.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAZAYOUX). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. REYES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING TINA ALLEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sorrow that I learned of the passing of my dear friend and constituent, Tina Allen. Tina dedicated her life to documenting the spirit of black Americans through her sculptures.

Each of her subjects, famous or not, were her way of writing our history in bronze. As an artist, she was an inspiration. As a person, she was a beacon of life as she brought to life the features of great people.

She often said that "great people should have great monuments." Her work includes abolitionist Frederick Douglass at the African American Museum of Birmingham and featured in the movie, "Akeelah and the Bee"; Rev. Martin Luther King in Las Vegas, Nevada; botanist George Washington Carver at the St. Louis Botanical Garden; Sojourner Truth, City Hall Park, Battle Creek, Michigan; and more recently, entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr.

□ 2000

Tina worked on projects big and small. She was best known for her

monumental statue of "Roots" author, Alex Haley, which was installed at Haley's Heritage Park in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1998. Her hands were able to create life-like images from simple mounds of clay. As a result of her work, Tina was interviewed as a featured artist on the "Best of CBS Sunday Morning."

Ms. Allen was a child prodigy in sculpture and at age 11 was taken under the wing of internationally renowned abstract sculptor, William Zorach. After earning her BFA from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, she continued her studies in New York and also in Italy.

To her family and friends, I extend my sincerest condolences on their loss. Her sculptures will live on as a testament and inspiration to others. She will be sorely missed, but forever remembered.

And Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the remaining part of my time to the distinguished Congresswoman from California, MAXINE WATERS.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman WATSON for taking time out this evening to honor and recognize Tina Allen. Tina Allen was a friend. As a matter of fact, she was a friend to so many of us women in the greater Los Angeles area. We held her in such high esteem. She was such a talented artist who is famous for the many works that were just identified by Congresswoman WATSON. I have one of her sculptures in my home. And as I took another look at it, this weekend thinking about Tina, it's hard for me to reconcile that she has passed.

She was a very vibrant woman who was just full of life. She was so involved in the community. And she had been commissioned to do a bust of a community activist in my district, Ms. Lillian Mobley. And we were so looking forward to that. And so I joined with Congresswoman WATSON and others in basically saying farewell to Tina and extending my sympathy to her children and to her family. She was a great artist who will be missed by us all.

I yield back and thank you for yielding time to me, Congresswoman WATSON.

Ms. WATSON. Thank you, Ms. WATERS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NATIONAL SECURITY INTERAGENCY REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my perspective